CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication:	Asian Babes Vol. 17 No. 1
Other known title(s):	Not stated
OFLC ref:	0900244.000
Medium:	Magazine
Distributor:	Gordon & Gotch
Editor:	Akshita Kapoor
Publisher:	Trojan Publishing
Country of origin:	United Kingdom
Language:	English
Applicant:	Gordon & Gotch
Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
Descriptive note:	None
Display conditions:	Either That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown by way of a label issued in accordance with a direction under section 36A(2); and That the label must be affixed to the package in which the publication is displayed so that the classification is brought to the attention of purchasers; and That the publication must be publicly displayed only in a sealed package. The package must be made of opaque material. Or That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown by way of a label issued in accordance with a direction under section 36A(2);

and

That the label must be affixed to the front of the publication in such a manner that it is visible at all times;

and

The publication must be publicly displayed only in premises, or a part of premises, set aside for the public display of restricted publications (whether or not articles other than restricted publications are also displayed in those premises or that part of those premises).

Date of entry in Register: 10 August 2009

Date of direction to issue a label: 10 August 2009

Summary of reasons for decision:

The magazine needs restriction to adults because of its explicit sexual content. The magazine focuses primarily on depictions of naked women posed in a sexualised manner for the titillation of the reader. Dense pages of website, classified and telephone sex advertisements appear throughout the magazine, often with crude and derogatory terms for women. The injury lies in the potential for the material to confuse and disturb children and young persons before a healthy sense of personal sexuality has been formed, and regard the somewhat degrading sexual comments and attitudes as socially acceptable. Several small advertisements go very close to, but just fall short of, tending to promote or support the use of urine in association with sexual or degrading conduct.

This restriction interferes with the right to freedom of expression as set out in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. This limitation is demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society, given the likely injury to the public good if it was available to children and young persons.